

# FAMILY



## Do Your Own Thing

**R**ide a roller coaster at the beach or a steam train through the redwoods. View exotic animals or marine life in spectacular settings. Search for sea anemones along the coast or pan for gold in the Sierra foothills. Saddle-up for mountain trail riding or suit-up for desert water sliding. Variety puts the fun in family vacations, and California has it all. Here are a few suggestions, including some tips from local residents, to help make your Golden State holiday pleasurable and memorable.

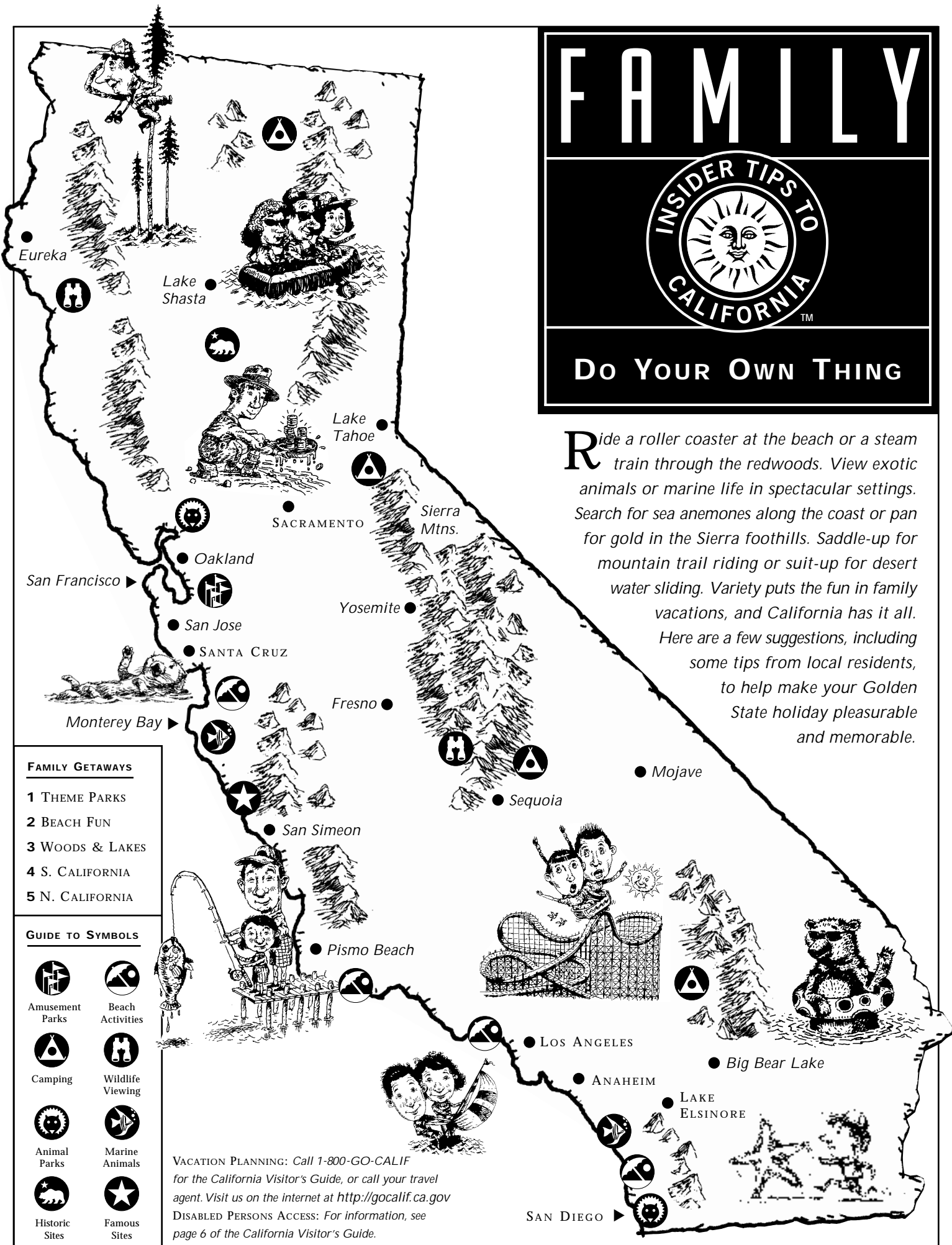
### FAMILY GETAWAYS

- 1 THEME PARKS
- 2 BEACH FUN
- 3 WOODS & LAKES
- 4 S. CALIFORNIA
- 5 N. CALIFORNIA

### GUIDE TO SYMBOLS

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
|                 |                  |
| Amusement Parks | Beach Activities |
|                 |                  |
| Camping         | Wildlife Viewing |
|                 |                  |
| Animal Parks    | Marine Animals   |
|                 |                  |
| Historic Sites  | Famous Sites     |

VACATION PLANNING: Call 1-800-GO-CALIF for the California Visitor's Guide, or call your travel agent. Visit us on the internet at <http://gocalif.ca.gov>  
 DISABLED PERSONS ACCESS: For information, see page 6 of the California Visitor's Guide.



## 1 THEME PARKS



### LOCALS RECOMMEND

#### NEW THRILLS & CHILLS



☛ **Superman, The Escape:** *world's first 100-mph coaster debuts this spring at Six Flags Magic Mountain.*

☛ **Jurassic Park River Adventure:** *fast-flowing river rafts confront huge animatronic dinosaurs, opening at Universal Studios Hollywood this spring.*

☛ **Jaguar:** *mammoth roller coaster swoops and swerves around Knott's Berry Farm; opened in 1995.*

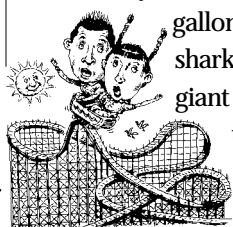
longtime favorite "Main Street Electrical Parade" marches into history after this year.

*Knott's Berry Farm*, California's first theme park, features twisting coasters, tamer kiddie rides and high-flying stunt shows.

For the ultimate in thrill rides, head for *Six Flags Magic Mountain* in Valencia (off I-5 north of the San Fernando Valley), where the "monster coasters" may be the world's scariest. *Six Flags Hurricane Harbor* is an adjacent water theme park.

*Universal Studios Hollywood* takes you inside the world of movie making like no other set in Tinseltown. Time travel "Back to the Future" and ride a tram through the back lots.

At the acclaimed *Monterey Bay Aquarium*, a new wing (opening in March) showcases life in the open ocean. The "Outer Bay," a three-story-high, million-gallon exhibit, displays blue sharks, ocean sunfish and giant sea turtles. Some creatures are seen in no other aquarium.



## 2 BEACH FUN



### SAN DIEGO

About two hours south of Los Angeles and just minutes north of Mexico, sun-soaked San Diego and surroundings serve up more than 70 miles of sandy beaches — all open and free to the public.

Mission and Pacific Beaches are favorites of surfers, boogie boarders, volleyball players and — along the adjoining boardwalks — of cyclists and rollerbladers. Nearby are Belmont Park, with a roller coaster and carousel, and beautiful Mission Bay Park, the world's largest aquatic sports center. Mission Bay is also home of Sea World, an aquatic theme park where killer whales perform and sea otters frolic. For families with young kids, the surf is gentle at Coronado and Silver Strand state beaches.

And no family visit here is complete without a stop at the incomparable San Diego Zoo, located in Balboa Park just a short drive from the beach. San Diego offers numerous lodgings right on the beach and along Mission Bay.

**SANTA CRUZ**  
Santa Cruz is a relaxed beach town

about 1 1/2 hours south of San Francisco. Its classic boardwalk amusement park by the sea, white-sand beaches, surfing waves and wharf, lined with open-air fish markets and shops, make it a fun-filled spot for the whole family.

The Beach Boardwalk features high-speed coasters, kiddie rides and a two-story miniature golf course. Swim at the beach in front of the boardwalk, or head for Natural Bridges State Beach to explore tide pools and watch for monarch butterflies in winter. To see massive elephant seals in their natural habitat, head north up the coast to Año Nuevo State Reserve.

### LOCALS RECOMMEND

#### TIDE POOL CRITTERS



☛ **Point Loma,** San Diego: *go at low tide to view sea stars, crabs, mussels.*

☛ **Leo Carrillo State Beach,** Malibu: *spectacular tide pools at rugged beach.*

☛ **Spooner's Cove,** Montana de Oro State Park: *tide pools teem with sea urchins and hermit crabs.*

## 3 WOODS & LAKE ADVENTURES



### LAKE ELSINORE

Situated 75 miles southeast of Los Angeles, Lake Elsinore is a popular year-round recreation area and a favorite of water-skiers, boaters and anglers. The 3,000-acre natural lake offers two marinas.

### LOCALS RECOMMEND

#### HIT THE TRAIL

☛ **Ricochet Ridge Ranch,** Fort Bragg: *guided trail rides along Ten Mile Beach.*

☛ **Camp Richardson Corral,** Lake Tahoe: *guided trail rides, wagon rides, pack trips.*

☛ **Red's Meadow Pack Station,** Mammoth Lakes: *scenic pack trips and guided trail rides.*

☛ **Smoke Tree Stables,** Palm Springs: *guided rides over desert trails.*

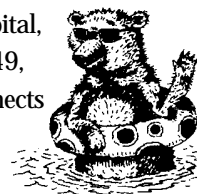
☛ **Pebble Beach Equestrian Center,** Monterey area: *guided forest and coastal trail rides.*

Expected to open this summer is the Haunted Galleon, an amusement park by the lake. Nearby is the Lake Elsinore Diamond, a state-of-the-art stadium for the local minor league baseball team, The Storm. You can camp at Lake Elsinore Recreation Area on the northern shore of the lake.

**GOLD COUNTRY**  
In the Sierra foothills east of

Sacramento lies a chain of rustic towns that bustled with "49er fever" during the Gold Rush. History, scenery and recreation are abundant, but the area is compact enough to cover in a long weekend.

Start in Old Sacramento, a restored riverfront area of the capital, then head for Highway 49, the curvy spine that connects a string of historic Gold Country towns. In the restored town of Columbia, a state park, you can ride a stagecoach, sip a sarsaparilla in an old-time saloon ("ladies and minors welcome"), and pan for gold. Almost every town boasts authentic old-west style lodgings, furnished in period decor. Or you can camp along the rivers and lakes, and go boating, fishing and white-water rafting.



## 4 ATTRACTIONS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**F**rom 20th-century castles to historic plazas, children's museums to family dinner theater, California's various attractions offer delights for all ages.

### **WILD ANIMAL PARK — San Diego**

Four thousand animals roam freely over "wild" terrain.

### **AERIAL TRAM — Palm Springs**

Climb from desert palms to alpine forests in 15 minutes.

### **MEDIEVAL TIMES — Buena Park**

Feast while watching knights joust on horseback.

### **QUEEN MARY — Long Beach**

Tour the largest passenger ship ever built and relive an elegant era.

### **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — La Habra**

One of California's first children's museums remains a hands-on favorite.

### **SCOTTY'S CASTLE — Death Valley**

Spanish/Moorish castle set in a wondrous desert landscape.

### **EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES HISTORIC MONUMENT — Los Angeles**

Olvera Street, where Los Angeles was born, now a Mexican marketplace.

### LOCALS RECOMMEND

#### WATER WORLDS



#### ☛ Oasis Waterpark, Palm Springs:

*California's largest wave-action pool.*

#### ☛ Wild Rivers, Irvine:

*wild action includes waterfalls and tunnel slides.*

#### ☛ Raging Waters, San Dimas near LA: the largest water park west of the Mississippi.

#### ☛ Waterworld USA, Cal Expo grounds, Sacramento: six-story speed slide, wave pool.

### **GENE AUTRY WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM — Los Angeles**

Discover the characters who forged the West.

### **WILD BILL'S WILD WEST DINNER EXTRAVAGANZA — Buena Park**

Cowboy singing, trick-rope artists and all-you-can-eat chicken and ribs.

### **OLD TOWN STATE HISTORIC PARK — San Diego**

Restoration of California's first European settlement plus Mexican marketplace.

### **STEPHEN BIRCH AQUARIUM AND MUSEUM — La Jolla**

More than 30 aquarium tanks, outdoor tide pool overlooking the Pacific.

## 5 ATTRACTIONS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### LOCALS RECOMMEND

#### WEIRD & WACKY

#### ☛ Winchester Mystery House, San Jose:

*stairways and doors lead nowhere at "world's oddest" historical mansion.*

#### ☛ Mystery Spot, Santa Cruz: balls roll uphill, laws of gravity go haywire — or do they?

#### ☛ Forestiere Underground Gardens, Fresno: newly reopened subterranean realm with tunnels, rooms and exotic trees.

#### ☛ Dinosaur Gardens, Palm Springs: two huge sculpted dinosaurs loom near freeway.

### **MARINE WORLD AFRICA USA — Vallejo**

Wildlife theme park features new "Walkabout," where kangaroos roam free.

### **PARAMOUNT'S GREAT AMERICA — Santa Clara**

"Top Gun" jetcoaster tops a host of thriller rides.

### **CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND USA — Oakland**

Enchanting little park with nursery rhyme sets on shores of Lake Merritt.

### **HYDE STREET PIER — San Francisco**

World's largest fleet of historic ships, berthed near Fisherman's Wharf.

### **STEINHART AQUARIUM — San Francisco**

Seals, dolphins, penguins and leopard sharks, in Golden Gate Park.

### **OAKLAND MUSEUM — Oakland**

California's history, ecology, art and diversity on attractive display.

### **ALCATRAZ ISLAND — San Francisco Bay**

The infamous "Rock," reached by boat

tours from Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 43.

### **UNDERWATER WORLD, PIER 39 — San Francisco**

Northern California's newest aquarium, opening in April at popular shop-lined pier.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM — Sacramento**

Relive the golden age of train travel in Old Sacramento.

### **INDIAN GRINDING ROCK STATE HISTORIC PARK — Pine Grove**

Insights into ancient Native American life in a reconstructed village and museum.

### **CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM — San Jose**

Silicon Valley's premiere interactive site for kids, with hands-on cultural activities for all ages.

### **ANGEL ISLAND — San Francisco Bay**

Picnic, hike, kayak, ride bikes or trams on this historic, scenic gem; get there by ferryboat.

### **EXPLORATORIUM — San Francisco**

Exceptional children's science museum with 600 hands-on exhibits in the Palace of Fine Arts.

### **BATTERY POINT LIGHTHOUSE — Crescent City**

Tour a real working lighthouse, reachable only at low tide.

### **FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK — Jenner**

Once the most distant outpost of the Russian empire, on the coast north of San Francisco.

### **SKUNK TRAIN — Fort Bragg**

Former logging train climbs through red-woods, over bridges and around switchbacks.

